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66. (New) The hand-held RFID device of any one of claims 26 through 35, 63, or 64, wherein the hand-held device obtains information from an RFID tag, and immediately displays information stored within the hand-held device that is related to a tagged item.

67. (New) The hand-held RFID device of any one of claims 26 through 35, or 63 through 66, wherein the device is adapted to verify the order of materials on a shelf.

68. (New) The hand-held RFID device of any one of claims 26 through 35, or 63 through 67, wherein (i) the device is programmed with specific information identifying certain items that an operator wishes to locate, (ii) identifiers of items read by the RFID device are compared with the information identifying the certain items; and (iii) when a match occurs, the device creates one or more signals indicating the presence of the item.

Remarks

A. Personal Interview

Applicants' undersigned representative acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner in the personal interview conducted on Friday, March 23rd, in regard to the captioned application. By way of an interview summary, an RFID device was shown, and certain amendments to the drawings were discussed, in order to tie together the claims and the disclosure in the specification, as mentioned in the Interview Summary provided by the Examiner. Other minor matters described in the outstanding Office Action were also discussed.

B. Drawing Amendments

The Request enclosed herewith formally requests the amendments to the drawings, but more detail regarding those amendments is provided herein. Paragraph 5 of the Office Action noted certain aspects of the pending claims that should be shown in the drawings. The drawings are proposed to be amended by adding Figures 15 and 16, the contents of both of which is fully supported in the application and claims as originally filed. New Figure 15 illustrates an integrated RFID device comprising a

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computer, an antenna, an RFID reader, and a display. It also illustrates an integral power source in the form of a battery 200, a detachable hand-held computer at 206, a wireless data transfer system (indicated by arrow 203), and a trigger 207 (as is now recited in new claim 63). Figure 16 illustrates a separate power source 201 that is tethered to the device, and a cabled connection 205. These drawings amendments are believed to overcome the objection under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), and reconsideration of that objection is respectfully requested.

C. Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical errors noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, and also to reference new Figures 15 and 16.

D. Claims

Claims 1 through 25 have been canceled from the application pursuant to the restriction requirement. The Office Action also noted certain typographical errors in claims 27, 28, and 36. Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to correct the error, and claim 36 has been canceled. The Examiner also noted that the relationship between the RFID tag on line 3 of claim 26 and the RFID elements on line 5 of that claim is unclear. That claim has been amended to clarify that issue.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, was discussed with the Examiner at the personal interview, and for the reasons presented then it is believed to have been overcome. By way of summary, the specification and claims clearly support an integrated hand-held RFID device of the type claimed, and the addition of Figures illustrating the previously-claimed and disclosed devices and components provides a graphical illustration of the claimed device. The detachable computer, as described in the specification, can be of the Palm Pilot-type hand-held computer referenced in the application, which can simply be detached from the RFID device in a known manner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the section 112 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 26 through 36 would be allowable over the prior art of record once the 112 rejection was overcome.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims 26 through 35 are thus in condition for allowance. New dependent claims 63 through 68 have also been added, based on the disclosure of the application, and because those claims depend from an allowable base claim they too should be in condition for allowance.

E. Related Applications

A chart summarizing certain RFID-related patent applications that are assigned to the assignee of the present invention is provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

| 3M File # | U.S. Serial # (filing date) | Title | Inventor(s) | Status | Publication |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 53776 - A | 09/093120 06/08/98 | Identification Tag With Enhanced Security | Goff et al. | U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,137 | WO 99/65006 |
| 53776 - B | 09/639032 08/14/00 | | | Pending | |
| 54418 - A | 09/134687 08/14/98 | Application for Radio Frequency Identification System | Goff et al. | Abandoned | WO 00/10112 |
| 54418 - B | 09/368745 08/05/99 | | | Pending | |
| 54419 - A | 09/134688 08/14/98 | Radio Frequency Identification Systems Applications | Garber et al. | Abandoned | WO 00/10122 |
| 54419 - B | 09/368817 08/05/99 | | | Pending | |
| 54420 - A | 09/134686 08/14/98 | Applications for Radio Frequency Identification Systems | Garber et al. | Abandoned | WO 00/10144 |
| 54420 - B | 09/344758 06/25/99 | | | Abandoned | |
| 54420 - C | 09/368826 08/05/99 | | | Issue Fee Paid | |
| 54420 - D | 09/619220 07/19/00 | | | Pending | |
| 54420 - E | 3/13/01 | | | Pending | |
| 54420 - F | 3/13/01 | | | Pending | |
| 55349 - A | 29/117015 01/14/00 | Handheld Interrogator | Eisenberg et al. | U.S. Pat. No. D-435557 | |
| 55350 - A | 09/484370 01/14/00 | User Interface for a Portable RFID reader | Berquist et al. | To be abandoned | |
| 55350 - B | 09/755714 01/05/01 | | | Pending | |

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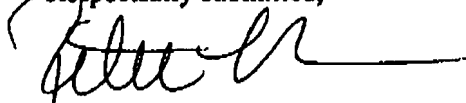
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|----------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---------|--|
| 55360 - A | 09/498902 02/04/00 | Method of Authenticating a Tag | Baldwin et al. | Pending | |
| 56071 - A | 09/735243 12/12/00 | Objecting Tracking and Management System and Method of Using Radio Frequency Identification Tags | Francis et al. | Pending | |
| 56428 - A | 09/789903 02/21/01 | Evidence and Property Tracking for Law Enforcement | Grunes et al. | Pending | |
| 56491 PCT7A | 03/13/01 | RFID Reader with Removable Media | | | |

F. Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is solicited. If a telephonic conference would be of assistance in resolving any remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (651) 733-6750.

Respectfully submitted,



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PLO:jlh/54420-4D Amendment 3-01
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